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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116
Serial No. 09/501,517

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A total of 37 claims are pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Rejections

With respect to rejected claims 1-7 and 9, Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice to reasserting these cancelled claims in a continuation.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 21-45 are allowed and that claims 8 and 10-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 8, 10 and 15 in independent form. Dependent claims 11-14 and 16-20 remain the same, as they depend on claims 10 and 15, respectively.

Drawings

Applicant hereby submits formal drawings to replace the hand-drawn figures currently on file. The formal drawings are substantially identical to the drawings currently on file and therefore no new matter has been introduced.

Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)

Applicant submits the fee for independent claims in excess of three. There were three independent claims presented in the original application and now the application has been amended to have five independent claims. The fee submitted herewith is thus for two excess independent claims.

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Conclusion

In light of these amendments, only allowed and rewritten allowable claims remain in the application. Thus it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER J. ASHWOOD SMITH

By



Kent Daniels, P. Eng.
Reg. No. 44,206
Attorney for Applicant

KD/MMR/sw
Encls. Appendix A – 6 sheets of drawings

Ogilvy Renault
Suite 1600
1981 McGill College Avenue,
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3A 2Y3
(613) 780-8673